

Twenty-fourth Regiment to his home near by and gave us breakfast, and some of the boys said here was the most fried bacon they ever saw at one time. The Twenty-fourth Regiment had also a skirmish down on the Blackwater with some Yankees that came up the river on a gunboat.

Ordered from here to Drewry's Bluff, reaching that place 16 June. From this place, a few days later, we were sent down below Richmond, at Bottom's Bridge. 4 July had a fight near the bridge, in which we lost several men, and drove back the enemy with severe loss, after which we returned to Richmond about 8 July, and went into camp for a few days below the city. On the march from Bottom's Bridge one of the boys became sick, and the writer was detailed and left behind to take care of and help him on to camp. Night soon came—one of those dark, dismal nights, that is so intensely dark that we can almost feel it with the hand, and we had to pass over the old battle field of the seven days' fights below Richmond of the year before. As we trudged along we talked of the loneliness of the hour and of the sacredness of the ground over which we were passing, not knowing what moment we might stumble over the bleaching bones of an old comrade that had fallen on this blood-red field the year before. We moved on, however, reaching camp late at night, tired and worn out. The Twenty-fourth remained here a few days, after which it was ordered to Petersburg.

From Petersburg, on 20 July, the Regiment was ordered to Weldon, N. C. Reaching that place we went into camp on the east side of the town. It was expected, when the Regiment left Richmond, that we would go on to Rocky Mount, N. C., as the Yankees had the day before invested that town and burned part or all of the public buildings; but on reaching North Carolina it was found that the enemy had fallen back nearer the coast. The regiment remained near Weldon for quite a while awaiting orders. On the 28th of October we left Weldon for Tarboro, N. C., reaching there on the 30th. On the first of November we set out for Hamilton, N. C., arriving there on the 6th. Here the regiment remained for some time, doing picket duty at Rawl's Mill and below there. Scouting parties were often sent out from the